

**Village of Rossville**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 16, 2026**

Mayor Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rossville Municipal Building located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Black and Trustees Layden, Mikel, Ward and Ault physically present.

Trustees absent – Trustee Wallace

Trustees attending electronically while on vacation – Trustee Gammon

Guest attending electronically – Sarah Tanner

Guests present were Clerk White, Janice Marie and Marilyn Danner

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held February 16, 2026 were presented. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Mikel to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting, February 16, 2026 minutes and approve them as presented. Vote: Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes.

Treasurer Ault's unofficial report for February 2026 was presented. Trustee Layden noticed the beginning balances for February were not the same as the ending balances for January. Trustee Layden questioned the ending balance of February's sewer balance. Clerk White stated there was a typo on the ending sewer fund balance for February. The balances for the funds will be reviewed and an amended treasurer's report will be presented at next month's meeting for approval. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Ward to reject the February 2026 Treasurer's report and wait on the revised report at next month's meeting. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Layden, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed. Trustee Layden asked where the list of outstanding checks are? Trustee e Gammon asked if the list of outstanding checks can be listed on the treasurer's report. Clerk White asked if we can discuss adding items to the treasurer's report until all month's checking accounts have been balanced. We are still working with LOCiS to get everything balanced in the new system. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Mikel to approve the bills for payment as presented. Vote: Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes.

Superintendent Snyder's report – Mayor Black reported that Quinton Fritz and Jake Gregory have completed the minimum number of gas training CDs so they can take their turn being on-call.

Mayor Black received a complaint about potholes in the alley on the 200 block of Stewart/Gilbert.

Mayor Black thought Comcast was done boring but they haven't begun to bore for fiber optic.

Police report – Chief Greene found a discrepancy on charges from Vermilion County Animal Control and the contract that was signed. Chief Greene is researching the charges and if found to be incorrect, we can apply for a refund for the overcharges.

Trustee Gammon gave kudos to Officer Finley on his good bust.

Accounts Receivable – Collector White did not prepare a report for this evening until the accounts receivable accounts are in balance.

A payment plan has been reviewed with the owner of 104 Maple regarding the gas bill. An average gas price over 10 years has been determined for the number of therms billed totaling \$537.25 to be paid over 6 months along with their monthly bill. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Mikel to authorize a payment plan to pay \$537.25 for gas over a 6-month period for the gas bill at 104 Maple. Vote: Ault, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes.

Sales Tax Breakdown Process – Mayor Black would like to begin the process to receive a quarterly report that shows where the sales tax is coming from.

306/308 Maple – Mayor Black reported the owner of 306-208 Maple has been service. We are now waiting on the 6 month waiting period. Mayor Black emailed Andy Mudd to notify his firm that the Village has retained other counsel. Mr. Mudd is done and can provide current counsel the Village's records. The Village will file for change of counsel.

108 N. Summit – Mayor Black reported the owners are working to clean up the property. The vehicles have been cleaned up.

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214 E. Attica – Mayor Black is working with the Village attorney regarding an emergency process to remove the garage.

216 Henderson – Mayor Black has spoken with the owners of 216 Henderson regarding the garage that had been torn down. The owners are actively working to remove the garage debris and have a deadline of May 5<sup>th</sup> to have the property cleaned up. The tenants have furniture stacked around the house as well.

There was no discussion regarding 207 Harrison.

Commercial Battery discussion – Mayor Black stated the Village of Rossville has solar and wind ordinances but nothing regarding the battery storage. The Village has no protection regarding commercial batter storage. The PHS Committee needs to work with the Village attorney to prepare an ordinance for no storage within Village limits. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Ward to move the discussion of preparing an ordinance regarding commercial battery storage to the Police, Health & Safety Committee. Vote: Layden, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes.

Mayor Black will upload the IML Attorney Conference Update so everyone can review it.

1.5 Mile ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) – Mayor Black reported that Illinois is pushing to be Number 1 in promoting wind, solar and batteries. The State has stripped from the County, Townships their right of refusal. They haven't stripped Municipal jurisdiction yet. There are ways around the ETJ. The Board needs to discuss the 1.5 Mile ETJ and what they want to do about it. A motion was made by Mikel, seconded by Layden to transfer the discussion regarding the 1.5 Mile ETJ to the Planning and Public Works Committee to discuss the best course of action with the Village attorney. Vote: Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Layden, yes.

Cybersecurity – All of the Village electronics are protected now by Cloudstrike, which is a detection, intrusion and defense mechanism. Cloudstrike is a free program from the State of Illinois. Mobile devices are NOT protected. Every computer is outdated and needs replaced. If there is a security breach, it would notify the security operations center, which is monitored 24/7 and they will notify Kathy Rife and Mayor Black. Mayor Black is working on Cloudstrike performing a Vulnerability assessment for the Village regarding attacks on our systems to see if they can hack into our systems.

Mayor Black had a good meeting with representatives from Good Energy regarding Community Solar Energy. Good Energy has their own solar farms. Good Energy will look at the Village bills, offer solar at a discount. Residents can receive a 15% discount and low-income residents can receive 20% discounts. Good Energy may come to the next regular board meeting with a presentation.

Mayor Black has discussed with DECO (Department of Economic and Commerce Opportunity) about revising what constitutes a “food desert”. Funding can be provided for a government to start a grocery store, which the Village would quality. Or the Village can act as a grantor to grant funds to someone who wants to begin a grocery store.

Village-Owned lots – Mayor Black has no change on what the Village can do about the appraisals on those lots.

Sale of Lots 5 & 6 in Ridl subdivision-redevelopment agreement – A diagram of the proposed development of lots 5 & 6 has been provided to board members. The next step would be to pay the fees then follow the remaining parts of the process.

Aquatic Control maintenance Program agreement for 2026 – An agreement between Aquatic Control and the Village of Rossville for Pond maintenance for 2026 was presented. The annual fee for 2026 is \$4,087.20. If paid prior to April 1, 2026, a discounted rate of \$3,964.58 would be offered. Services will be offered April through September 2026. Trustee Ward asked when the Village can order fish. Clerk White has not received the information regarding a Spring fish order yet. Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Ault to approve the agreement with Aquatic Control for 2026 for \$3,964.58. Vote: Ward, yes; Layden, yes; Ault, yes; Mikel, yes.

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Zoning Board Secretary – Mayor Black reported the Zoning Board is to appoint a secretary from one of their Board members. They have not done that, therefore, the Village Board can appoint a temporary secretary. Motion was made by Ward, seconded by Layden to appoint John McCool as the temporary secretary for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Vote: Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Layden, yes.

A donation request was received from the Vermilion County Fair Board for the 2026 fair. Motion was made by Mikel, yes; Ward to donate \$500 to the Vermilion County Fair Board for the 2026 year. Vote: Layden, yes; Ault yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes.

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful sent membership requests for the new year. Motion was made by Ault, seconded by Mikel to approve membership fees of \$200. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Layden, yes.

Sara Tanner presented her plan to possibly bring an ice cream wholesale distribution center to Central Illinois. Ms. Tanner would require a high voltage electrical area. Ms. Tanner and Mayor Black have discussed several locations. Ms. Tanner would use a 40-ft cold storage trailer along with a small shed or tiny house next to the trailer. A small amount of gravel would have to be placed underneath the trailer. Marilyn Danner stated when the Village was tearing down the downtown buildings, an ordinance being passed where you couldn't put tiny buildings in the downtown area. Mayor Black will research the ordinance. Phase II would be to find a building that she can build cold storage inside of. Ms. Tanner would have a 2-year lease with the ice cream company so she would have 2-years to make Phase II begin. Marilyn Danner offered to discuss selling a portion of her commercial property on North Summit. Ms. Tanner would like to be operational prior to May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Finance & Budget – Jim Crose, Crose Insurance, reported the employee health insurance plan had a 24% rate increase for next year. The plan is an age rate premium. Mr. Crose recommended the Village remain on the same health insurance plan with a \$600 deductible premium. Mr. Crose provided board members with rates for other Blue Cross deductible plans. The health insurance plan renewal will be put on next month's agenda.

Marilyn Danner asked if there is a Spring Trash Day or Clean Up Day? It is not budgeted for this year. Ms. Danner would like to hear the Board's opinion on the Planning for the Future Project. The presenter of the program, requested the contact information for the volunteers to be on the Steering Committee. Clerk White has provided that information to her. She is working on setting a meeting with the volunteers. Trustee Mikel believes the program is a good program.

MS. Danner was inquiring about funding for the community projects. The Village can help facilitate community-led projects by providing guidance, funding and acting as an intermediary for grants that require a government entity as the recipient. The only grant the Village currently has is a façade grant that offers up to \$5,000 in assistance, which are provided with TIF Funds.

Ms. Danner asked about improvement at Bobcat Cove. Ms. Danner has heard several complaints about the type of gravel used for the walking path around the pond. The gravel is difficult to walk on or push a stroller around. Proposed improvements include fixing the walkway, lighting, seating and trash cans.

Janice Marie voiced concerns about the potential for non-conforming activities under current zoning laws, which could be exploited in the future to justify other non-conforming uses. Ms. Marie volunteered her time and expertise in accounting and law to help the board.

Trustee Layden reminded board members the proposed budget must be posted in April. The final budget will be approved at a special board meeting on April 30, 2026.

Trustee Gammon requested a meeting with the Mayor regarding the ETJ. Trustee Gammon had another idea for a place for the ice cream distribution center. Trustee Gammon will discuss the idea with Mayor Black.

Beautification Committee – Trustee Ward updated board members on proposed solar lighting, benches and the community garden. Trustee Ward would like to install solar lighting at the pond. At the community garden, there are plans to plant fruit trees and use a donated ramp to build raised garden beds, which would require the community day for volunteers to work to move dirt and deconstruct the ramp.

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The intergovernmental agreement with District 7 is being drafted by their attorney and covers items like snow removal.

The Liquor License Ordinance Amendment is close to completion. Some items need to be checked.

Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Ault to adjourn to executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2 C6 to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. Vote: Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:19 p.m.

Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Mikel to return to regular session. Vote: Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Layden, yes; Mikel, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:34 p.m.

Motion was made by Layden, seconded by Ward to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Mikel, yes; Layden, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White  
Village Clerk  
Board approved 4-20-26